Jim – this is only copy I'm sending – relates Russo

Confidential

2/21/70

Dear Lou,

As you know, in what time I could find I have been working in areas that may have the possibility of importance to you. In it I have a number of handicaps, two of which are not know what is in your files and what is in your minds. These tend to make communication less easy.

As you also know, I have had misgivings about some of your work and certain elements of the Shaw case, the first of which I indicated to Jim my very first trip to N.O. Nothing has happened to relieve these doubts, so I have always kept them in mind and, when it was possible and I was in N.O., I sought to learn what I could of what I regarded as possibly relevant.

Recently I have come into information of unquestionable authentirity that, in its way, addresses itself very much to the foremost of these questions that have been in my mind. I think it would be good if we could find a safe way to discuss this. I can be at a clear phone in 10-15 minutes at the outside, if I knew when and where to call you.

I have this information in strictest confidence. Therefore, I have to ask that, for the time being, you keep it entirely to yourself. I recognize you may have some problems in making this promise. However, I assure you it in no way involves any loyalty to Jim or anything like that. It is simply that I feel I can trust you if you give me your word and there are notmmany people in New Orleans about whom, from my experience with them, I can say this. As you will learn if and when we talk about this, it is the opposite of disloyalty to Jim or the office.

Meanwhile, I have two suggestions to make. Think what you would do if you found out that someone had really put you on and hurt you thereby, hurt you badly. And ask Joe Oster what he knows about Ferrie. He does know, he does have files, he was paid to make any investigation. I ask you also to hold this to yourself. Because I recognize that if he tells you you may not be able to tell me, I only ask that you do if you can.

Separate from this, I was rather surprised to have a phone call from Joel Palmer this morning. A long, daytime call from Calif costs money. He has about finished a book that, I think, will be no cause for joy for any of you. He was also interested in and said he called only because he wanted to know what I know of what Jim had besides Russo on Shaw. I told him, truthfully, I had assumed more but never looked into the files or asked. While he had told me in N.O. his books would be on Banister (I never believed it), he now says it will be on the entire thing, with emphasis on Jim's case, and regrets it is not another Epstein-job. He also claims the Alyea film I loaned him was stolen, that he spoke to Nancy after he left N.O. and she claims to believe her husband was murdered (a rather effective way of keeping him out of Dealey plaza, I would assume) and many other things.

I know know the NOPD had at least two investigations of Ferrie. Charlie Jonson and Fornier worked on the sex one, Becker in your office. If anyone ever interviewed Nancy Walker, who was Arcacha's secretary in the Balter Bldg., I'd like to see the report(s). She should have been interviewed. Martens was working there then. If you reread the files in this case and think critically, you should have at least one very big question in your mind. Aside from having reason to ask yourself if O'Sullivan's testimony before the Warren Commission was truthful. He testified the only sex case against Ferrie was out of your jurisdiction. This is false. He should have know it was false. I have not seen the whole file, but I have seen some of it. Actually, some of the Jeff case was in your jurisdiction. Best regards,